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People In The News



Gov. Rick Perry recently announced the appointment of Elsie Allen of Fort Worth to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers for a term to expire Sept. 26, 2007. The board licenses qualified engineers, enforces the Texas Engineering Practice Act and regulates the practice of professional engineering in Texas.

Elsie Allen is a background investigator for DynCorp and a former

member of the Appraisal Review Board for Tarrant County. She is also the founder and executive director of Sisters SOS Ministry, Inc., a non-profit organization focused on keeping women safe. The mission of Sisters SOS Ministry is to teach and to train women in practical applications for real life situations, using biblical principles as the foundation for living safe and secure lives.

Ms. Allen has served as a member of the East Fort Worth Business Association, the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Women Entrepreneurs and the African-American Women's Network.

She is a graduate of the Fort Worth Police Academy and a former patrol officer for the Fort Worth Police Department. Her appointment is subject to senate confirmation.

Dr. Theresa Williams starts today as the principal of Richland Collegiate High School for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering, a charter school opening this fall at Richland College. RCHS is the first such charter high school in the state.

"It's very exciting to be able to offer something that doesn't currently exist.

The cost and time savings are an incredible opportunity for students," Dr. Williams said. "I feel very honored to be the one to blaze this trail."

RCHS students will complete their last two years of high school as well as earn college credits. RCHS' curriculum will focus on mathematics, science and engineering. The school is tuition-free, and students will be issued a laptop computer.

Dr. Williams came to RCHS from Garland's Lakeview Centennial High School where she was the assistant principal of Instruction and Curriculum. Before becoming an assistant principal, she also served at Lakeview as a Spanish teacher, drill team director and cheerleading coach.

For more information on RCHS, visit www.richlandcollege.edu/rchs or call David Canine at 972-238-6919.



Tammy Barnes hopes the March 7 Primary Election Day results find her the people's choice for the Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2.

The 42 year old Dallasite is a long time activist including, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Coalition of Black Democrats, Board member and past president of Family Outreach Southern Dallas, Habitat for Humanity volunteer and many other activities.

An active Democrat she was chosen as a delegate to the State Democratic Convention and as member of the Coalition of Black Democrats she has worked to increase citizens' awareness in governmental affairs and the political process.

Professionally, she has worked for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department as a Central Intake Specialist, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Pardons and Paroles Division and served as Deputy District Director for Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

"Running for this office allows me to do two things I love the most, interpreting and enforcing the law while serving the community," Ms. Barnes stated.

If elected Barnes will be the first African American woman to hold the JP post in Dallas.

Ms. Barnes can be reached at TammyBarnes4JP@aol.com or 214-338-4228.

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Ex-FEMA Chief Shifts Katrina Blame To Homeland Security

Former federal disaster chief Michael Brown testified Friday he notified top White House and Homeland Security officials on the day Hurricane Katrina roared ashore that "we were realizing our worst nightmare" and New Orleans was seriously flooding.

He dismissed as "just baloney" and "a little disingenuous" claims by agency officials that they didn't know about the severity of the damage until the next day.

Testifying before a Senate committee, Brown said he agreed with members who characterized him as a scapegoat. "I feel somewhat abandoned," said Brown, who quit under fire as chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency just days after the storm ravaged much of the Gulf Coast of the United States.

Brown suggested the administration's fixation with fighting terrorism may have been to



blame, in part, for the slow government response.

Because of a focus on terrorism, natural disasters "had become the stepchild of the Department of Homeland Security," he said.

Had there been a report that "a terrorist had blown up the 17th Street Canal levee, then everybody would have jumped

Ex-FEMA Chief Page 6

King Children Talk About Mother, Rights Movement



By: Cynthia Post
Special to the NNPA from the Atlanta World

In an interview with members of local and national African-American publications, the four children of Coretta Scott King shared

details of her final hours and thoughts on the future of the Civil Rights Movement.

In a joint interview, the King children - Yolanda, Martin Luther III, Dexter and Bernice - spoke in the offices of the

King Children Page 4

Coalition Urges Use Of Cotton Belt Route For East-West DART Line



As DART reviews routes for the east-west service through the fast growing communities of North Texas, business leaders, government officials and concerned citizens have formed Cotton Belt-Smart for DART, a regional coalition to

remind transportation leaders of the unprecedented benefits of providing passenger, light-rail services along the Cotton Belt rail line.

Rail service on the Cotton Belt line has been part of DART's long-range master plan for more than 15 years. DART already owns the 54-mile rail line and right-of-way land. A Cotton Belt line could connect communities throughout Collin County and northern Dallas County from Rowlett and Garland through

East-West DART Line Page 5

Darfur Peacekeeping Force Tops Bush-Annan Talks

President Bush and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan agreed Monday to work with other nations to have an effective peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region, but Annan did not ask the president to supply U.S. troops.

Annan said last week that he would ask Bush for the United States to play a major role in a peacekeeping force, saying Darfur's plight was too severe for rich nations to fund the mission only while Third World nations contribute troops.

But after meeting with Bush in the Oval Office, Annan told reporters it was too early to ask for U.S. military support because contingency planning is still being conducted.

"Once we've defined the requirements, then we approach the governments to see specifically what each of them will do in terms of troops, in terms of equipment," Annan said.

"I'm very happy that we have agreed to work together on the Darfur issue, working with other governments from Europe and Asia and other regions to ensure that we do have an effective security presence on the ground," Annan said.

"This is an issue where all governments have to play their role," he said. The United States pays about a quarter of the U.N. peacekeeping budget, which topped \$5 billion in 2005, but provides a small percentage of troops or police.

The large Darfur region of western Sudan has been torn by violence since February

Darfur Peacekeeping Page 5

Faith Based And Community Grant Writing Sessions

As a part of their efforts to help strengthen communities and neighborhoods throughout DFW, the Christian Chamber of Commerce Association and their sponsors are inviting the public to participate in a comprehensive grant writing and strategic planning workshops designed to support faith-based (Christian) projects and programs in the community.

The workshop will be held on February 18th, 2006, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

The location for the workshop is the Hollman Los Colinas Business Center 1825 W Walnut Hill Lane, Irving TX 75038.

This workshop session is designated for projects originating in the following zip codes: 75249, 75236, 75233, 75224, 75211,

75208, 75212

Having non-profit status is not a requirement. Independent service providers are also welcomed. Attendees are encouraged to bring at least one project or program along with the project budget. Certified organizational specialists will take the groups through a comprehensive neighborhood strategic planning session that will include strategies for funding their projects.

Faith Based Grant Page 3

Angela Davis Calls For Bush Impeachment

By: Ian Patrick Gray
The keynote speaker of Central Michigan University's Black History Month celebrations on Wednesday night called for the immediate impeachment of President George W. Bush and the abolishment of the Department of Homeland Security.

During an impassioned speech in which she invoked the names and legacies of Coretta Scott King and Rosa Parks, Angela Y. Davis spoke to a packed audience in Warriner Hall's Plachta Auditorium about racism, sexism and the way we have come to accept injustice as part of our social landscape.

At the close of her speech, Davis offered two goals for the assembled students, faculty and community members. "George Bush has several more years in office. He should not be allowed to finish his term. He should be



impeached," Davis said to an enthusiastically responsive audience. "If Bill Clinton can be impeached over Monica

Bush Impeachment Page 8

Plano Housing Authority's Executive Director

Helen Macey announces a groundbreaking ceremony for the housing authority's new administration building in the historic district of Plano at 818 18th Street (18th & G) on Monday, February 20, 2005 at 10:00 a.m..

Construction of the 8400 square foot facility is scheduled to begin in late February. McKinney Construction has been awarded the contract and architect for the project is Architettura. 1st International Bank, located in Plano, is financing the \$800,000 HUD approved project. This will be the first administration building for PHA.

The Plano Housing Authority administration building will house the Public

housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, Family Self Sufficiency program, and Homeownership program. The administration building will also have a Community Room which will be available for nonprofit group meetings and will have two offices that can be leased by other social service or non-profit agencies.

Plano Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners invites the community to attend this historic groundbreaking ceremony signifying the beginning of an exciting year for Plano Housing Authority which will include a fundraiser for educational scholarships in summer, the

Plano Housing Authority Page 9

Plano Community Forum Sweetheart Ball

- Photos By: PJ Johnson



Plano Mayor Pat Evans and husband enjoy a special dance.



(L to R) John Berry, Leonard Mathews, Sharon Thomas, Dolly Thomas, T.J. Johnson. Back row (L to R) Julius Chambers, Charles Harris, Michael Boykins.



Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miller enjoy Special Sweetheart Ball Moments.



(L to R) Frank Drop, Terry Drop, Crystal Reed, Clara Reed, Deanna Johnson, and Annel Winston-Hall. Back row (L to R) Alisha Morton and Charles Reed. Representative of Schlitzky's of Plano.



Members of Plano Community Forum



Lynn Hayes and Alexandria Hayes enjoy event festivities.



(L to R) Tanya Swink, Lucero Prada, Melissa Arroyo, Yvette Taft and R. John Machacek. Back row (L to R) Scott Dyer, Luis Prada and Jeff Moore representatives of Hibernia Bank.



Members of the Dunbar Social and Charity Club



Mayor Pat Evans and T.J. Johnson begin the raffle for gifts and prizes.



Members of Douglass Community Arts Advisory Committee.



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McKinney Celebrates Black History Month

February 25, marks the first celebration of Black History Month with several activities planned for McKinney, Texas. The theme for the celebration is "Celebrating Heritage".

The scheduled activities include:

Community Business Fair-

will provide an opportunity to reach many customers and promote businesses in the area;

Essay Writing Contest- McKinney Independent School students grades 5-8 are asked to write an essay about a person, past or present who they feel is an "American Hero".

Community Talent and Step

Show- focuses on talent in the community.

Cultural display- focuses on outstanding African Americans past and present.

Booth Rental- available for persons interested in displaying their wares and to distribute information about organi-

zations.

The event is free and open to the public. It will take place at the Old Settler's Recreation Center, 1201 E. Louisiana St., 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., McKinney, TX. For more information call 972-542-5014 or 972-562-8310.

Around The Town

February Ongoing

The national touring production of "Issues We Got 'Em", a play exploring marriage, infidelity and more will be held, the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. For show times and information call 214-742-2440. February 14-18

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Annual Cultural Awareness Series will be held at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. For more information call 214-880-0137. February 14-18

An International Experience of Wine, Food, Spirits and the Arts 2nd Annual Savor, Dallas Arts District, 2100 Ross Ave., Suite 885. Call 888-392-7705 for information. February 16-18

Plano Citizen Police Academy is accepting applications for its spring class, which begins Thursday. The free 13 week class meets every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. Call 972-941-2135 for information.

Gut Bucket Gospel- From Church to Broadway Gospel Revue of Black Gospel music from traditional hymns to contemporary music will be held at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin St. For show times and information call 214-743-2440. February 15-17

Celebrate the Artists at

Fort Worth, Central Library Gallery, 500 West 3rd St., Fort Worth, 6:30 p.m. Call 817-0871-READ. Exhibit thru February 22.

The Society of Figurative Arts will hold lab and workshop sessions at 7:00 p.m. most Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3306 Wiley Post, Studio 104, Carrollton. Call 972-679-1625 for information.

Dallas Summer Musicals' Broadway Contemporary Series Brings The Ten Tenors back to the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. Call 214-421-5678 for information. February 28-March 5.

A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie, temporary exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Call 512-936-8746 for information. February 11-April 15

Teen Reaching Teens, Inc. and Teen Graffiti Magazine presents free computer training. Courses offered Wednesday and Friday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and Saturday 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 972-496-9457. Begins February-April.

Irving Black Arts Council presents Visual Arts exhibition at the Main Gallery. Call 214-993-8444 for information. February 1-28.

Drums Not Guns will hold drumming sessions from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Saturdays of the month thru mid-May at Old Settlers Park Recreation Center, 1201 E. Louisiana St. Call 214-641-

0782 for information.

A Ballroom Dance with a live band at the McKinney Senior Recreation Center and Indoor Pool, 1400 S. College St., Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. Call 972-547-7491 for information.

The First Baptist Church is again offering "DivorceCare" beginning January 15 and running for 13 weeks. Call 972-727-8241 for information.

Assistance League of Greater Collin County meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit www.assistanceleague-gcc.org.

Allen Symphony Chorus is recruiting singers for its April 29 performance. Rehearsals are from 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Thursdays, choir room Erickson Middle School, 450 Tatum Dr. For information call 972-359-0656.

A free legal clinic is offered for residents who meet low income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

The Frisco Housing Authority is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

Korean War Veterans Association-Sam Johnson Chapter 270 meets the second Saturday of each month at the Richardson Senior Citizens Center, 820 Arapaho Rd. in Richardson. Call 972-279-7000

for information.

February 17

16th Annual African Heritage Banquet, 7 p.m., University of Texas, University Union Silver Eagle Suite, University Union.

The 22nd Annual Quest for Success Awards Luncheon, Dallas Convention Center-Ballroom A, 650 South Griffin St., 11:00 a.m. Call 214-421-5200 for information.

Straight Talk for Women: Pitfalls and Successes of Entrepreneurship, Dallas Convention Center, 650 Griffin St., 8:00-11:30 a.m. Call 214-421-5200 for information.

Frankie Beverly & Maze, Nokia Live, 1001 Next Stage, 7:00 p.m. Call 972-854-5111.

National Women's Heart Day Health Fair will be held at the American Airlines Center, the Concourse, 2500 Victory Ave., 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 214-871-3029 for information.

Music Under the Dome, featuring the sounds of the Zydeco Band will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the African American Museum, Fair Park, 3536 Grand Ave. For more information call 214-565-9026 for information.

February 18

North Garland Nicholson Memorial Library presents: "A History of African-American Fraternal, Social and Civic Organizations", in celebration of Black History Month. Presenter is Leslie Bonds. 10:30 a.m., North Garland Branch Library, 3845 North Garland Ave., at Apollo

State Representative Yvonne Davis invites women to the District 111 Health & Wellness Forum, Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 W. Wheatland Rd. (Dallas), 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 214-946-8808 for information.

South Collin County Habitat for Humanity announces 2006 Building Lives Gala, Marriott at Legacy Town Center located near the Tollway and Legacy in Plano, 6:30 p.m.

Call 972-398-0634 for information.

Jarvis Christian College presents Heritage Scholarship Banquet with the Dallas Chapter Alumni, Fairmont Hotel(Dallas). Call 903-769-5883 or 214-426-2700 for information.

Texas Girls' Choir presents annual "Your Little Sweetheart" Concert, 2:30 p.m., Texas Girls' Choir Hall. Call 817-732-8161 for information.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Annual Founders Day Luncheon, Wyndham Anatole Hotel. Call 972-298-1602 for information.

February 19

You are invited to attend Representative Yvonne Davis' Annual Hat and Gloves Tea, 2020 W. Wheatland Rd., 3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. For information call 214-946-8808.

February 21

Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions,

Irving Arts Center, Dupree Theatre, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. (Irving) For information call 972-206-0774.

February 22

9th Annual Equity and Diversity Conference, featuring Law and Order TV Star B. D. Wong and actress/civil rights advocate Yolanda King, 8:00-5:00 p.m., University Union Silver Eagle Suite. Call 940-565-2108 for information.

February 23

Richard Fisher, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas will speak at installation luncheon of the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Westin Galleria, Galleria Ballroom, 13340 Dallas Pkwy. Call 972-241-8250 for information.

February 25

United Negro College Fund's 7th Annual "Red Hot and Snazzy" Benefit Gala, Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard St., 6:00 p.m. Call 972-234-1007 for information.

African American Author Showcase, a lively and entertaining discussion by a panel of local authors, J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., O'Hara Exhibit Hall, 7th fl., 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Call 214-670-7800 for information.

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Making Sure Our Children Know Their History

By: Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." So said Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the scholar and historian who is called "The Father of Black History." He founded Negro History Week in 1926 to help give this record and inspiration to other Black Americans. At the time Dr. Woodson was alarmed because so few people, White or Black, knew anything at all about Black history and Black people's achievements. He would even meet other Black college history professors who had no idea Blacks had made any significant contributions to national or world history. Dr. Woodson understood just how critical it was to claim our rightful place in the history books, and so the national celebration of Black history was born.

As times changed, Negro History Week became Black History Week, and 30 years ago, it officially became Black History Month. But throughout the years the celebration's symbolism and important message has always remained the same. This year, Black History Month falls at a time when recent losses have already made many of us reflect on our history and how far we've come.

After Rosa Parks' passing in October and Coretta Scott King's passing in January, many people felt they had witnessed the end of an era. Parks and King were indeed two of the towering figures in Black American history and I hope all of our children now know exactly who they were and what they stood for. Who else should we be sure to

teach our children about to inspire them?

They should know about our earliest heroes like Phillis Wheatley and Benjamin Banneker, and freedom fighters like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and so many others who were born in slavery but never gave up in their passion to be free. They should know about the next generation of brilliant Black leaders and thinkers like W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett and about pioneering inventors and educators like George Washington Carver and Carter Woodson himself. They should study the Harlem Renaissance and the writers, musicians, and artists who bloomed there and changed American culture forever.

They should learn about civil rights leaders A. Phillip Randolph whose first threatened March on Washington inspired the second and Ralph Bunche who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his U.N. peace-making efforts in the Middle East. He, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who won the Nobel Peace Prize 14 years later, refused to be "ghettoized" and saw the connection between the quest for justice at home and globally and the need to stand against violence at home and everywhere.

They must celebrate all the strong women who were indispensable in the struggle for freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, Septima Clark, and so many more, and bask in the pioneers who broke barriers throughout the 20th Century, including Marian Anderson, the Tuskegee Airmen, Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall, Shirley Chisholm, and Mae Jemison. Of course they should applaud our still living legends: civil and human

rights leaders like Myrlie Evers-Williams and Dorothy Height, scholars like John Hope Franklin, and cultural leaders like Harry Belafonte, Ruby Dee, and Maya Angelou. The list of great Black Americans goes on and on and our children should know their stories and be given the tools and motivation to emulate them.

Finally, we should teach our children as much as we can about the heroes in their own families and try to be the people we want our children to become: the grandparents and great-grandparents who came before them and paved their way. Why is this so important? Family stories are often the most memorable inspiration of all. They bring history alive and reinforce the idea that anyone and everyone can use their lives to make a difference. What a thrill it was for me to take my 4-and-a-half year old granddaughter to the Capitol Rotunda and tell her the Rosa Parks's story and say over and over again that a Black woman can do anything and change the world.

This is a key lesson not just for Black History Month but every day. At Coretta Scott King's funeral, leader after leader spoke about how hard she worked during her lifetime as a champion of freedom and justice and juggled movement building with motherhood. She reminded us all about how much still needed to be done to realize Martin Luther King Jr.'s and her dream - America's dream. Every time we look back at our history to celebrate, we must remind ourselves and our children of just how much unfinished business we must attend to and be inspired by our history to write the next chapter.

Email Comments to
Editor@MonTheGazette.com



Paul
Hailey

Dallas ISD Trustee Hollis Brashear announced last week that he was leaving the school board in May after 14 years. Part of his given reasons had to deal with stress coming from a contentious school board sharply divided between black and Hispanic racial lines.

"Our board meetings have become very stressful in the past year," he said. "When you've been on the board as long as I have, you like things to go a lot smoother with a level of stability."

Initially, I was cynical about Mr. Brashear's candor in his reason for leaving until I studied the ridiculous proposal made by recently deceased trustee Joe May.

Mr. May garnered national attention last week with his proposal that DISD hire illegal immigrants to fill its more than 400 bilingual teaching positions in the next year. This proposal came on the heels of the school board narrowly passing a measure that requires some secondary principals and vice-principals to become bilingual over the next three years. He explained that it just makes sense to hire people to teach that are already here.

"We're paying for DISD people to go over to other countries and recruit bilingual teachers," he said. "It makes sense if we set up shop over here. We can build an employment base in our own market."

Hub?
I'm not an attorney, but I believe the fundamental problem with hiring illegal immigrants as teachers is...that it's, um...illegal.

When Is An Illegal Alien Not Illegal?

Illegal aliens have violated the laws of the United States of America by surreptitiously crossing the border. They have entered this country illegally. The need for these people as bilingual teachers or gardeners or housekeepers does not negate the fact that they are criminals.

"It's illegal to knowingly hire or continue to employ illegal aliens," said Carl Rusnok, regional communications director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "Unless you're in this country legally, it's illegal for you to work."

There is another question that needs to be answered: What message are we sending our children if they learn their new teacher is in the country illegally?

Mr. May touched on a hot button issue that is a political hot potato in a country with an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants from Mexico. Texans, along with folks in California, Arizona and New Mexico are forced to deal with this issue in a way that no other states do.

In his State of the Union address, President Bush emphasized his "guest worker" program Bush's "guest worker" plan, which would allow illegal immigrants to stay in America for three years. I wish this was based on some kind of altruistic stand on his part.

Politicians support embracing illegal aliens when courting the Hispanic vote. Bush did it in 2000 and 2004. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that Bush's big-business allies like the plan, because they see the illegals as cheap labor. Beyond that, what happened to the rule of law that conservatives were so quick to

apply during the "looting" of New Orleans?

I applaud the creativity of Mr. May on this issue. Today's urban school districts have to throw out all of the old ways of doing business in order to deal with teacher shortages, reduced funding and eroding tax bases. Yet the larger issue is bigger than urban school districts. Hispanics have replaced blacks as the majority minority in Texas, and the social and political ramifications of that shift are just beginning to surface.

Unspoken as it is, blacks have a built-in resentment toward illegals. This resentment is heightened when black people see massive federal budget cuts of social programs that are in some part due to pressure on the social infrastructure caused by illegal aliens. Whether real or perception, black people feel that illegal immigrants take jobs they would otherwise occupy. Blacks, (and whites as well), have a problem with the concept of bilingual education. The prevailing thought is why can't we just make sure all students can read and write English before they graduate?

As much as I have admired Mr. Brashear, we cannot quit because this issue is hard. Train existing teachers to become bilingual. Give them incentive bonuses if necessary. Demand bilingual students learn English. Hammer it out. The solutions are not going to be easy, but find them anyway.

Our children, black and Hispanic, are worth the effort.

Paul Hailey can be reached at editor@MonTheGazette.com.

Bush Budget: Anti-Human Rights

By: Ron Walters
NNPA Columnist

We have come out of a period of national mourning for several legends of the civil rights movement which has included the solemn words and actions by the president of the United States, all meant to give the impression of respect for their legacy. But however much one acknowledges this show of respect from the White House, it is in the doing that one really respect the legacy of their life work.

Presidents put flesh to their policy ideas by proposing to spend real money. The recent State of the Union speech by George Bush was given by a president so low in the polls that the White House staff should all be dancing the limbo. He began with his long suit - the "war against terror" -- for one half of the speech and devoted the second half to a menu of small initiatives, some of which could have been fielded by liberals. Now comes the fine details in budget and the picture gets real ugly.

Basically, what we get from the massive \$2.7 trillion budget is a promise by the Bush administration to cut the soaring deficit (estimated to be \$521 billion) in half by 2009, a year after he leaves office. To get there, we are presented a set of optimistic assumptions that just don't add up.

For example, Bush and his successor would have to cut \$38 billion from the budget and even experts from the conservative Heritage Foundation are skeptical that will happen. The Bush administration grew spending by 42 percent since it came into office and now faces massive challenges of Iraq War and

Hurricane Katrina - and possibly other hurricane damage coming. The administration, however, only proposed to spend \$50 billion on the War in Iraq annually, but it set the same amount aside last year and has had to increase it by another \$70 billion, totaling \$120 billion so far.

The frantic moves of the administration are seen in its rejection of a \$30 billion package for spending for Katrina, down to possibly \$18 billion. He proposes to cut 141 programs "that were not working" (I wonder who made that judgment and what was the criteria). But while he plans to realize savings of \$14.5 billion, last year Congress only cut two-thirds of that figure, saving \$6.5 billion as a result.

The big news is a cut of \$35 billion in Medicare spending over the next five years; but this is an election year, and it unlikely that the middle class will tolerate beginning to make deep cuts in this program. So, where will Bush get the \$60 billion he will need to expand health savings accounts, fund energy initiatives, and other proposals? A lot of what he has proposed seems unrealistic, and not just to people like me.

Meanwhile, he makes matters worse by pushing to make the tax cuts permanent. This proposal would reduce government revenue over the next 10 years by an estimated \$1.4 trillion say economists Alan Auerbach of Berkeley, Robert Burch and William Gale and Peter Orszag, both of The Brookings Institution. They find tax cuts to be the major source of declining government revenue since Bush has been in office. Moreover, in

this budget Bush raises spending for Defense by 6.9 percent and 9.8 percent in Homeland Security, both big ticket items.

Do you begin to get this picture?

Big increases for Defense, Homeland Security and the war in Iraq. However, since federal revenue is decreasing, in order to cut the deficit, Bush must hold the line on increases in health care spending and offer modest spending for Katrina relief, while cutting the heck out of "discretionary spending" for social programs (the 141 list). This the formula.

It is amazing that in 2001, when Bush came into office the federal budget was projected to have a surplus to 2011, estimated to be \$5.6 trillion. Now, there is an estimated deficit for the same period of \$2.7 trillion.

In actuality, the Bush budget scenario probably may not turn out as scripted, because the focus on cutting middle-class entitlements is likely to slip down to the poor substantially. This is a likely recipe in an election year because the middle class has political clout and poor people don't vote or protest as much.

Nevertheless, driving down the deficit now means driving down spending for the social and economic needs of citizens in this country. This is the budget position Republicans have wanted to create all along and the so-called "war against terror" has helped them achieve it. This must become an increasing part of Black economic thinking and a cause for political action.

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Publisher's Office:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: publisher@monthegazette.com

Sales Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

Editorial Department:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 516-4197

Email: editor@monthegazette.com

Entertainment Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Email: entertainment@monthegazette.com

Website: www.MonTheGazette.com

The Gazette

6100 Avenue K, Suite 105 • Plano, Texas 75074

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

Published By

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Assistant to Publisher

Katrina Timmons-McPherson

Production

Robert Booker

Assistant Vice-President Marketing

Edward DeWayne "Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Account Executive

Faye Cross

Religious/Marketing Editor

Shirley Demus Tarpley

Assistant Associate Editor

Cheryl Jackson

Publicist

Cheryl Jackson

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Special Projects

Paul Hailey

Contributing Writers

Lakeisha Joe

Vivian Fullerlove

Paul Hailey

Justin Jones

Ruth Ferguson

Deborah Gaines

Staff Writer

Gwen Elder

Columnist

James Breedlove

Photography

Patrick "Pj" Johnson

Laquisha Hosley

Cartoonist

Brad McMillon

Advisory Board:

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Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north-

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

MON-The Gazette formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991 by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

Cornel West Wakes Up FAMU Students

By: Kanya Simon
Special to the NNPA
from Capital Outlook

"We must wake up from sleepwalking."

No, this is not a line from the "Matrix Trilogy;" they are the words Cornel West uttered to a standing-room-only crowd of students, professors, politicians and other citizens at Florida A&M University's Lee Hall Auditorium, kicking off Black History Month.

West, a Princeton professor, theologian, activist, motivational speaker, philosopher and author of such books as "Race Matters" and "Democracy Matters," was invited to FAMU by the Student Government Association and apparently enjoyed his visit to "the Hill."

West wasted no time in provoking thought and challenging the minds of the audience, many of whom struggled to get past an overflow crowd lining up in front of Lee Hall along Martin Luther King Boulevard trying to get in.

"The unexamined life is not worth living," West said. "Learn how to think critically for yourself, against the grain.... Education isn't about school. I'm talking about education. Will you have the courage to be educated,

to interrogate these questions and assumptions?"

He challenged the audience to discover their history by first discovering what it means to be human.

He said there is no way to begin to explore the history of people of African descent without finding out what it's like to be a human being.

West then began to turn upside down the meaning of being a Black human in America.

"What is slavery but 244 years of social death," West said. "The history of these people would be the very key for American democracy as a whole. The U.S. Constitution is the dogma of White supremacy. If White supremacy doesn't die in American democracy, (American democracy) will die. It's nothing to play with at all... It's these unspeakable realities you have to come to terms with," he said.

West began to give a formula he said can help Black Americans move forward in American democracy. He said one step is to seek the truth and boldly tell the truth, and to seek out "our" legacy, which he said is greatness.

"Stop telling (Black people) to be successful," he said. "We'll



end up with a generation of peacocks. Peacocks strut because they can't fly. Be great like an eagle. They shoot eagles and feed pigeons, but you have to be willing to pay the price."

With jokes on politics, his connection with the hip-hop culture and his words of wisdom, West apparently connected with his audience, including delegations from Bethune-Cookman College and Edward Waters College.

Near the end of his speech he had given them a major challenge - to love who they are.

He said, "Black folk will never wake up as long as we hate ourselves."

King Children Page 1

Atlanta Life Financial Group on Auburn Avenue in downtown Atlanta.

Yolanda King expressed shock that the Mexican hospital where her mother died has been closed.

"We were extremely stunned by the news it closed," she said. "We went there with the highest of hopes. 'We knew she was weakening, yet we surrendered the situation to God,'" Yolanda King continued. "The highest healing is to return back to the source. We feel so strongly that she has reconnected with our father."

Bernice King, describing her mother's final hours, stated, "My mother said she was not in pain but uncomfortable. I believe she was wrestling with God. She was weighing whether or not to stay on Earth and continue her work"

Bernice King explained: "She made the decision that the best place for her was to be in a place of true peace."

Coretta Scott King was in Mexico for treatment of ovarian cancer when she died Jan. 30 at the age of 78.

She had been recovering from a stroke and heart attack suffered last August.

The King children said they are grateful for the values their mother instilled in them.

"She taught us the importance of being your best self," Martin Luther King III said. "She taught us not only the ability to love but also how to forgive."

Their mother was "a woman of great purpose, faith, strength and courage," Bernice King said.

"She saw as her mission of purpose to establish the center to institutionalize our father's legacy," she said. "She did this as a single parent. It was a move of someone who understood purpose and destiny," Bernice King continued.

Their mother showed them how to strike a balance between fame and normalcy, Bernice King added.

"The reason we were able to stay grounded was because she taught us we were not better than anyone else," she said. "We were also just as good as anyone else."

Dexter King and Martin Luther King III gave their thoughts on the possible future of the Civil Rights Movement.

"The Movement is now in a new phase - an evolutionary phase," Dexter King said. "It has to move to a higher consciousness."

"The methodology has to change; certainly technology has evolved into more non-traditional means," Dexter King continued. "However, one of

the issues our father dealt with - the haves versus the have nots - still must be addressed. The needs of the least of these must be addressed."

The federal government's response to last summer's natural disasters, especially Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, bore out the necessity for equal opportunities for all Americans, Martin Luther III said.

"The question is, 'What is the Movement and who is the Movement?'," Martin King III said. "We have not fully eradicated the triple evils our father

identified -- poverty, racism and violence.

"We must look at leadership at every level -- corporate, community, etc.," Martin Luther III continued. "Religious leaders must assert the role they had in the 1960s."

In lieu of flowers, the King family has asked that donations be made to the Coretta Scott King Scholarship Fund at her alma mater, Antioch College, 795 Livermore St., Yellow Springs, OH 45387.



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Is helping Bush keep oil prices up by his anti-withdrawal stance? After Murtha's call for a six-month phase-out in November, gas prices fell sixty cents – only to rise again once Bush's 'plan' had no deadlines.

Volunteered to nuke Syria? Then said it was 'kind of a joke' eleven days later? Maybe he just meant to invade Syria – but with what army, with our forces tied down in Iraq? Or will they use a draft?

Said we should torture prisoners, despite the 90 to 9 vote in the Senate for McCain's anti-torture bill? Even though he and McCain were tortured together in Hanoi?

Gets very little for our district despite his 16 years of seniority? That the entire Texas delegation is asleep on the job since Texas is 40th nationally in 'pork' for 2003, getting only \$23.09 per Texan versus an average for \$34.33 per US citizen? They'd rather give away our money in exchange for the 'privilege' of staying in Iraq and torturing prisoners. **Bad horse-trading, I'd say.**

Voted consistently for Most Favored Nation status for Communist China since 1991? That slave labor camps and ripped off patents are frequently used there to compete with our free workers and are killing our high-tech district? That their growth and savings from this is helping to build their military?

Is involved in the DeLay/Abramoff scandal? That it's connected to his being in the bottom half of Republican Congressmen in 2004 on fiscal responsibility?

Insulted the very person – Richard Nixon – who got him out of Hanoi, yet praised Bush who has gotten us into Iraq but won't get us out?

Voted against extending Hate Crimes Laws to cover sexual orientation, gender, and disability? That if you vote Republican in the Primary, you can become a delegate in June 2006 to **help me overturn the plank in the Texas Republican 2004 platform which seeks to abolish ALL Hate Crimes Laws?**

Did you know that he got over 180,000 votes in the General Election in November 2004 but only about 12,000 in the Republican Primary? That voting Republican in the Primary is the ONLY way to fire Sam Johnson since no Democrat has ever broken 26% in the district? That you can vote Republican in the Primary but vote any way you want in the General?

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'Savoy' Publisher Debuts Online Version Of Suspended Print Magazine

The publisher of "Savoy" magazine has announced the launch of the digital version of the publication, "Savoyzine." Having suspended the print edition of the lifestyle monthly, Hermene Hartman said that the company is moving quickly to develop its Web-based strategy.

"The online [version] was always a part of our game plan," said Hartman. "Obviously being online is a different economic than printing. This is a lot easier to do. The stories are shorter. You can maintain your Website without postage, printing, without the overhead of production that you have with a magazine."

After re-launching the magazine just one year ago, Hartman suspended publication of "Savoy" last month because of financial difficulties. She says that the search for investors is continuing.

To launch the digital version, Hartman acquired through a broker 11.3 million e-mail addresses of African-Americans who are "urban, sophisticated and progressive." Plans call for sending an e-blast directing them to Savoymag.com site, and offering daily news stories of particular interest to black readers. The contents of the site, which includes 11 different depart-

ments, will change on a monthly basis. Entertainment-related news and horoscopes will be updated more frequently.

Additionally, said Hartman, the site will support a blog for readers to give feedback and podcasts of interviews with celebrities featured in stories.

The Savoymag.com site is being launched with advertising support from Wal-Mart, and Hartman said that other advertisers are being signed as well.



Survey: Race Major Factor In Career For People Of Color In Accounting Industry

Race continues to impact the careers of people of color in the accounting profession, according to preliminary results from a survey of the National Association of Black Accountants' (NABA; www.nabainc.org) membership. Among the key findings:

- 59 percent of the respondents believe that because of their race, they have not always received unbiased/objective evaluations from their supervisors.

- 55 percent sense that the mistakes they might make in the workplace directly impact the perception/evaluation of other members of their race.

- Almost half think that their non-minority counterparts with less technical competence or experience are given more high profile/challenging job assignments

- 63 percent feel no obligation to remain with their current employer.

The survey, "The Professional



Norman Jenkins, NABA National President

Experience--The NABA Survey," was conducted by Howard University's Center for

Accounting Education (CAE), of which NABA is a financial and educational supporter. To date, 427 NABA members have submitted responses: 42 percent work in public accounting, 38 percent are employed by corporations and 20 percent work in the government or nonprofit sectors. A full assessment of the survey is expected in Spring 2006.

"In spite of diversity programs initiated by many of the nation's top employers, there is still disparity amongst people of color in the accounting and finance areas with regard to their ability to advance with their employers," said Frank Ross, founding member and past NABA president and director of the CAE. "We hope to provide recommendations for making positive changes to lower attrition and improve advancement for the

African-American accounting professional."

"It has been proven time and again that a diverse company is a stronger, better-performing company," Norman K. Jenkins, CPA, NABA National President, said. "The days when companies viewed diversity as a nice thing to do are over: Diversity in the workplace is a business imperative, and those employers who are successful in attracting and retaining diverse financial talent will have a desirable competitive edge."

"It is important to tap into our membership to assess their experiences," added Darryl R. Matthews, Sr., NABA's executive director and COO. "We are hopeful that the CAE's findings will lead to improved work environments so that people of color can blaze career paths with their employers."

East-West DART Line Page 1

Richardson, Plano, North Dallas and Addison, all the way to D/FW International Airport and eventually into the heart of Fort Worth.

"Light rail service is needed to serve the major employment centers of North Texas and the airport without going through downtown. The bottom line is, we're trying to move people. This is an important project for all of us who are here," said Gary Slagel, mayor of Richardson at a recent kick-off event held at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

With a rail line running along the UTD campus, a Cotton Belt light rail station could connect the university to the entire metroplex and more potential students, and it could open up possibilities for the university to develop outreach programs for young students and continuing education center for adults, according to Dr. David Daniel, president of UTD.

Some Dallas officials have supported a route to D/FW Airport along or under the LBJ Freeway. That route is estimated to cost about \$2 billion to build and doesn't include the cost of land acquisition. Whereas the Cotton Belt line is expected to cost about \$1.5 billion; it is already owned by DART, and as a result, could be in operation considerably sooner than a route along LBJ Freeway.

DART has tentatively scheduled a community meeting on the east-west rail options for late winter or early spring and it could hold final public hearings on its 2030 plan by late spring.

Darfur Peacekeeping Page 1

2003 in a conflict between non-Arab rebels and government forces, backed by militia allies. The Arab militiamen in particular are accused of atrocities against non-Arab civilians. The U.N. estimates 180,000 people have died, mainly from war-induced hunger and disease, and some 2 million have been displaced.



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Black History

Dred Scott (1795-1858), Litigator

Born in Southhampton, Virginia, Dred Scott's first name was simply "Sam." He worked as a farmhand, handyman, and stevedore. He moved with his master to Huntsville, Alabama and later to St. Louis, Missouri. In 1831 his owner, Peter Blow, died and John Emerson, a surgeon in the U.S. Army, bought him. Sam accompanied his new master to Illinois (a free state) and Wisconsin (a territory). Sometime after 1836 he received permission to marry and by 1848 he had changed his name to Dred Scott. At various times he attempted to buy his freedom or escape but was unsuccessful. In 1843 Emerson died and left his estate to his widow Irene Emerson, who also refused Scott his freedom. He then obtained the assistance of two attorneys who helped him to sue for his freedom in county court.



Scott lost this case, but the verdict was set aside and in 1847 he won a second trial on the grounds that his slave status had been nullified upon entering into a free state. Scott received financial backing and legal representation through the sons of Peter Blow, Irene Emerson's brother John Sanford and her second husband Dr. C.C. Chaffee, all of who apparently saw the case as an important challenge to slavery. In 1857 the United States Supreme Court ruled against Scott, stating that slaves were not legally citizens of the United States and therefore had no standing in the courts. Shortly after the decision was handed down Mrs. Emerson freed Scott. The case led to the nullification of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, allowing the expansion of slavery into formerly free territories and strengthening the abolition movement.

Fannie Lou Hamer - (1917-1977)

Fannie Lou Hamer, a Mississippi sharecropper, changed a nation's perspective on democracy.

Hamer became involved in the civil rights movement when she volunteered to attempt to register to vote in 1962 as a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Fannie believed that Black Americans needed to be educated on various aspects of economics and politics in order to be more successful.

By then 45 years old and a mother, Hamer lost her job and continually risked her life because of her civil rights activism. Despite this and a brutal beating, Hamer spoke frequently to raise money for the movement, and helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, to challenge white domination of the Democratic Party. In 1964, the MDLP challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation to the Democratic Convention, and in 1968, the Convention seated an integrated challenge delegation from Mississippi. She herself ran for Congress but failed because the prevailing party of the day did not permit her name to be placed on the ballot. However, she received more votes outside of the ballot than did her opponent.

She not only championed for rights to vote but also fought against the pervasive poverty in the Black community. She promoted economic assistance for Black Americans. One of her projects was Freedom Farms Corporation; she founded this land coop with the intention of having poor farmers eventually purchase a stake in this land.

Deeply committed to improving life for poor minorities in her state, Hamer, working with the National Council of Negro Women and others, helped organize food cooperatives and other services. She continued political activities as well, helping to convene the National Women's Political Caucus in the 1970s. She is buried in her home town of Ruleville, Mississippi, where her tombstone reads, "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired."



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Ex-FEMA Chief Page 1

all over that," Brown added.

The storm slammed into New Orleans and the Gulf coast on the morning of Monday, Aug. 29.

Brown said he spoke by phone to a top White House official — he said he believed it was Joe Hagin, the deputy chief of staff — "on at least two occasions on that day to inform him of what was going on."

Hagin was with the president, who began the day at his ranch in Texas then traveled to Arizona and California for policy speeches. Brown was in Baton Rouge, La.

"I think I told him that we were realizing our worst night-

mare, that everything we had planned about, worried about, that FEMA, frankly, had worried about for 10 years was coming true," Brown said.

He said he made similar comments in an e-mail message to White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card.

In an appearance before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee that was at turns both cooperative and confrontational, Brown went far further than he had previously in blaming other elements of the Bush administration for the government's halting reaction to the massive storm.

"There was a cultural clash

that didn't recognize the absolute inherent science of preparing for a disaster," he testified. "Any time you break that cycle ... you're doomed to failure."

He added: "The policies and decisions implemented by the DHS put FEMA on a path to failure."

Brown, who is widely viewed as the public face of the government's missteps during and after the storm, staunchly defended his role and appeared eager to answer any questions — particularly those that shifted the blame elsewhere.

He insisted he provided information to White House and Homeland Security officials the

day of the storm. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has said he did not know the levees were breached until the following day.

Brown's appearance in front of the Senate investigative panel came as new documents reveal that 28 federal, state and local agencies — including the White House — reported levee failures on Aug. 29, according to a timeline of e-mails, situation updates and weather reports.

That litany was at odds with the administration's contention that it didn't know the extent of the problem until much later. At the time, President Bush said, "I don't think anybody anticipated the breach of the levees."

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Comedy Central To Air Rickey Smiley Special

97.9 The Beat Morning Show Host and Comedian Rickey Smiley will be featured in the half hour special Comedy Central Presents: Rickey Smiley on Comedy Central this Friday, February 17th at 8 PM CST.

Rickey Smiley has been working the comedy circuit for the past twelve years and it has paid off. Establishing himself as a clean comic, his down home southern humor has made him a favorite in the nation's top comedy venues. From intimate comedy clubs to sold out crowds at Madison Square Garden, the Universal Amphitheater and the Lincoln Center, Rickey's unique style of humor resonates with his audiences unlike any other comic on the road today.

Best known as host of the 2000 season of BET's "ComicView", Rickey led the

show to its highest jump in ratings in the show's ten-year history. BET then quickly signed



Rickey to host "The Way We Do It" during the 2001-2002 season, and that show went on to become one of the top five shows on the

network. It's his genuine love of performing that has brought Rickey many accolades on stage, on camera and off. He was a guest presenter on the 2001 NAACP Image Awards and hosted the special awards banquet for the 2002 Stellar Gospel Music Awards. He can currently be heard every morning from 6 to 10 AM on Dallas' Hip Hop station 97.9 The Beat. Rickey took over the reigns as morning show host nearly one year ago. During which time, he has caused more and more area residents to tune in for his hilarious bits from his infamous "Prank Phone Calls" to anyone of his beloved alter egos, Smiley continues to please his fans behind the microphone and on the stage.

For more information about Rickey Smiley log onto www.rickeymsmiley.com.

Queen Latifah To Coach in NBA All-Star Celebrity Game

Queen Latifah and Eva Longoria will coach opposing teams that will face each other in the McDonald's NBA All-Star Celebrity Game, presented by 2K Sports as part of NBA All-Star 2006 in Houston.

Nelly, Nick Cannon, Donald Faison and Ice Cube are among the celebrities set to take the floor for the event, to be televised live on ESPN on Friday (Feb. 17) at 7 p.m. (ET).

The All-Star Celebrity Game will feature two teams: Longoria's H-Town vs. Latifah's Clutch City. Participants in the game will wear uniforms outfitted by Reebok, the exclusive uniform

supplier of the NBA. The home team will wear the Houston Rockets' Hardwood Classics'



Night uniform, while the away team will wear the Rocket's red jerseys.

Here are the lineups for the two teams:

• Clutch City: Coach, Queen Latifah; GM - ESPN's Greg Anthony; Bow Wow, hip-hop artist/actor; Andrew Firestone, ABC's The Bachelor; Donald Faison, actor; Chris Meloni, actor; Ice Cube, actor/performer; Kevin Frazier, Entertainment; Swin Cash, WNBA's Detroit Shock.

• H-Town: Coach: Eva Longoria; GM - ESPN's Stephen A. Smith; Nick Cannon, actor/singer; Chris Brown, R&B singer; Carlos Bernard, actor; Nelly, hip hop artist; Brandon Routh, actor; Tony Potts, Access Hollywood; Becky Hammon, WNBA's NY Liberty.

Wu-Tang Clan Kicks Off Reunion Tour

The Wu-Tang Clan is back. Fourteen months after founding member O.D.B. fatally overdosed on cocaine and painkillers, the surviving eight members of the pioneering hip-hop group are touring again.



"It's going to be different in a sense," group member GZA said in a telephone interview just before the tour kicked off Tuesday in New Haven. "He isn't going to be there physically, but spiritually and mentally he still will be there."

The New York rap collective, formed in 1992, revolutionized the hip-hop industry in the 1990s with its raw lyricism and business approach. Designed to take over the record industry, the group branched off to do solo projects following the major success of their debut album "Enter the Wu-Tang (36

Chambers)."

O.D.B., also known as Ol' Dirty Bastard, was a few days from turning 36 when he overdosed at a Manhattan recording studio in November 2004.

The group had not performed since then until starting its East Coast tour, which ends Feb. 19 in Orlando, Fla. Some proceeds will be donated to the deceased

rapper's family.

"He'll be in our hearts and he'll be in the hearts of the crowd. It'll be great. It'll be a great tribute," GZA said.

Wu-Tang is working on a new album and a documentary using film collected on tours and during time spent living in a California mansion, GZA said.

University Wants 'Glory Road' Apology

Officials at Texas A&M University-Commerce want Walt Disney Co. and the makers of "Glory Road" to apologize for inaccurately linking their school to some of the film's most racially charged scenes.

The movie chronicled the history-making Texas Western Miners, who won the 1966 NCAA title with the first all-black starting lineup in a championship game. It included a "completely false" depiction of a game against East Texas State University, the name of Texas A&M-Commerce at the time, spokeswoman Lorraine Pace said Friday.

In the movie, East Texas fans are shown throwing drinks and popcorn and yelling racial slurs at Texas Western, now known as the University of Texas at El Paso, during a regular-season game in Commerce, Texas. A

scene after the game shows a vandalized hotel room, with racial slurs written on the walls in red.

"It was just too awful for words," Pace said.

It never happened, Pace said.

According to UTEP athletic department archives, the Miners



played the Lions in El Paso on Dec. 9, 1965. The Miners won 73-51. The Miners won the game in the movie, but the margin was much closer.

"These events — specifically depicted as taking place at ETSU and in the Commerce area — are completely fabricated and go beyond the realms of literary

license and decency," A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland said in a statement.

Though the Jerry Bruckheimer film opened last month, university officials waited to verify the facts of the game before seeking an apology, Pace said.

The university has asked Disney, Bruckheimer, director James Gartner and the screenplay writers to apologize for the scenes.

Officials with Disney and Bruckheimer's film company weren't immediately available for comment.

The Texas A&M-Commerce complaint isn't the first. Before the movie's nationwide release, supporters of former Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp complained that the movie unfairly cast Rupp as a racist.

The Miners, coached by Don Haskins, beat Rupp's all-white Kentucky team 72-65 in the championship game. The movie was adapted from Haskins' book about the season.

Vivica Fox Among Women Appearing In Black Hair Documentary

Vivica A. Fox, Kim Fields and Ella Joyce are among the celebrities who appear in the documentary "My Nappy Roots: A Journey Through Black Hairitage," a film exploring the feelings black women have about their hair.

The project, from executive producer and director Regina Kimbell, takes an unprecedented look at the love/hate relationship and conflicting emotions black women have about "maintaining" their esteem in a society that does not value natural black hair as the traditional beauty standard. The film also unveils how black women today embrace and celebrate the uniqueness that is their hair.

The film's sponsor,

SoftSheen-Carson, will present a New York screening on March 29.



As a component of the film's screening, SoftSheen-Carson will begin the conversation for heart-

felt dialogue among women; inviting them to share their "hair stories" and experiences with each other around the world through it's Our History. My Hairstory! promotion. From Jan. 15 through Feb. 28, consumers will be invited to tell their "hair story" and send their submissions to Our History. My Hairstory Contest, P.O. Box 1940, Egin, Illinois 60121-1940. Five finalists will win an all-expense paid trip to the New York screening of the film to compete for the grand prize trip for four to Senegal, West Africa where our hairstory began.

Consumers can receive a free 20-minute DVD preview of the film when they purchase Optimum Care Relaxer in January and February.



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These programs are a part of the 9th Annual Equity and Diversity Conference.



B.D. WONG

Change, Hope and Equality
February 23, 2006
6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
Everyone is invited to this free program.

**All the World's a Stage:
From Exclusion to Inclusion**
February 24, 2006
8:15 to 9:15 a.m.

Conference registration and event information: 940.565.2456 or www.utdallas.edu/equitydiversity/conf06



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February 24, 2006
7:00 to 8:15 p.m.



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DFW Metroplex toll free number
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
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2 free tickets - UNT students with ID

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\$7.50 - UNT faculty and staff with ID, along with children under 12 and senior citizens

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No refunds. Program subject to change.

Book signing follows program, with books sold by University Bookstore.



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WFAA

SMU Fosters Future Engineering Stars At Visioneering 2006

SMU School of Engineering and Texas Instruments Host Signature National Engineers Week Event That Shows Students the Creative Possibilities of the Profession.

February 8, 2006 (DALLAS) Imagine an auditorium full of screaming middle school students brought to a frenzy by pulsing lights, rocking music and unique gadgetry. Sounds like a concert by the latest pop starlet, right? Actually, it is an opportunity to glimpse our country's future engineers as they put their creative minds and energy to work during Visioneering 2006: Athletics of the Future, a signature National Engineers Week event presented by the Southern Methodist University (SMU) School of Engineering and Texas Instruments. Held on Saturday, February 18, 2006 at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium and throughout the campus, Visioneering 2006 will feature

more than 1,000 middle school students from area public and private schools as they "play engineer" for the day and create their concept of Athletics of the Future. The opening rally begins at 9:30 a.m. and the final session concludes at 3 p.m.

Now in its sixth year, Visioneering attendance has doubled in attendance from last year to include more than 1,000 students, their teachers, engineering professionals, innovators and noted national figures, all of whom enjoy a day that celebrates the ways that engineering makes a difference in the world around us. Part concert, part science fair, with a little bit of showmanship and exhibition thrown in for good measure, Visioneering 2006 will include:

- A high energy opening rally emceed by local comedian and former voice of Wishbone, Larry Brantley;
- Motivational keynote by executives from Velocity Sports Performance, who will use student participants to demonstrate how they use technology such as Dartfish, a video analysis system used in the last Olympic Games.

• Appearances by former Texas Rangers great Jim Sundberg and NCAA swimmer, Olympic hopeful and SMU Engineering student Jennifer Basel

• A real-time engineering design competition in which teams of students collaborate with working engineers on a specific challenge in the sports/athletics industry;

• An energetic final awards ceremony recognizing the top student design projects.

"Our country has a critical need to produce more engineering graduates—especially among traditionally underrepresented groups such as women and minorities—and I can't think of a better way to fulfill this need than by creating a sense of excitement and interest in the engineering

profession through a fun event like Visioneering 2006," said Tammy Richards, assistant dean of the SMU School of Engineering. "These students will not only see some neat applications of technology in the sports world, but they will also get to participate in the fun, creative 'ideation' process paramount in the development of any product, be it a pair of tennis shoes with wheels or the latest communications satellite."

Visioneering 2006 kicks off Saturday, February 18 at 9:30 a.m. in McFarlin Auditorium. After the keynote by Velocity Sports Performance, student teams then begin their design project or visit the tech expo. Once the judging is completed, everybody reassembles in McFarlin Auditorium for the awards presentation at 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.theinstitute.smu.edu/visioneering.

Bush Impeachment Page 1

Lewinsky, then Bush can certainly be impeached over the lies he told about weapons of mass destruction and the ways rights of people in this country have been continually eroded."

Davis, who is a former Black Panther and former Communist Party member turned author and professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, rose to the national spotlight in 1969 when she was removed from a teaching position in the department of philosophy at UCLA for her social activism. She also was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List in 1970, but was later acquitted.

Davis focused her talk on Black History Month celebrations and the recent deaths of

Coretta Scott King, the wife of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks, two icons of the civil rights movements.

"This is a period when many veterans of the civil rights movement are passing," Davis said. "Radical activism, or our sense of it, may not survive our remaking of history during this

period of right-wing ascendancy."

"It's important to remember how we reacted to those images," Davis said, referring to photographs and videos of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "There were reports of murders and rapes. And I think most of us believed it. The attri-

Meet Daniel Whyte III, author of the Best selling Book, **Letters To Young Black Men: Advice & Encouragement for a Difficult Journey at Jokae's African-American Books**, 3917 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Suite 107, Dallas, TX

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Please fax a letter along with a brief resume to David Darling, Operations Manager at 214-561-9662 or email to ddarling@thewordfm.com. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE! Deadline for resumes is 4/13/06

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Position

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Benefits package includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k), paid vacation and sick leave. Please fax cover letter and resume to David Darling, Operations Manager at 214-561-9662 or email to ddarling@ksky.com

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Church News



Sister Tarpley

Last Sunday I attended my second Annual Black History Observance at Saint Mark Baptist Church in McKinney. Rev. Charles Wattle, Senior Pastor. Sis. Delores Murray and other committee members have put on some soul stirring and thought provoking programs.

After the Welcome, we were asked to stand and sing the Negro National Anthem, listed on the back of the program. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) it's easy for me to remember his birth year, he was born the same year that my paternal grandfather, David N. Demus was born. Dr. Johnson wrote the song in 1900; the song became popular in the Black community. Some 20 years later it became known as the "Negro National Anthem."

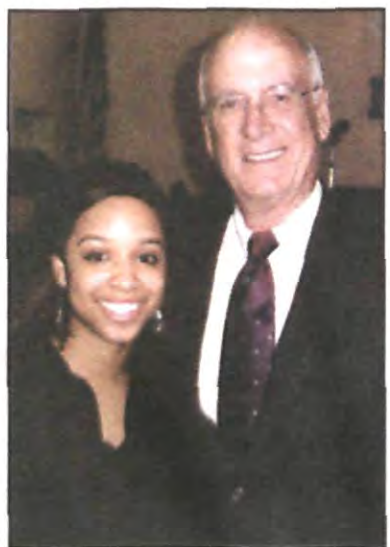
As we were singing the song, I began to look at the words in the song, and I 'listened' to the song. They are astounding words. Take a minute to read the words; perhaps with almost the same emotion that Dr. Johnson must have felt while writing them. Think about what the Black race had gone through, was still going through, and the faith that many still had in God.

Lift every voice and sing; Till earth and Heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

The Negro National Anthem

Let our rejoicing rise, High as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the



Picture of The Week
Miss Toi Pearson, a senior at McKinney High School and Mayor Bill Whitfield, City of McKinney, observing Black History Month

days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet, Come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears have been watered; We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered; Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last, Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way, Thou who has by Thy might, Led us into the light; Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet

stray from the places, Our God, where we met Thee; Least, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand. True to our GOD; True to our native land.

What If There Were No Black People In The World? We would not have: The World Wide Web (WWW) as we know it. Dr. Philip Emeagwali, considered "A Father of the Internet" helped give birth to the 'supercomputer' the technology that spawned the Internet. Henry T. Sampson, in 1971 invented the Cellular phone. Frederick M. Jones invented the Air Conditioning Unit in 1949. J. Standard invented the refrigerator. Let's not forget Otis Boykin who invented more than 25 electronic devices that are used in computers and guided missiles today. J. W. Smith invented the lawn sprinkler in 1897. L. A. Burr invented the lawn mower in 1889. And how many industries that are vital to America's success have been profoundly influenced by the contributions of Black Inventors? We would not have many agriculture and automobiles products, communication as we know it, railroads, trucking, etc. There is an endless list of contributions by Black folks in America. Thank God for Black History Month!

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Let *MON-The Gazette* help your church accomplish the Prayer of Jabez, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."

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40 participants become first time homeowners and helped to relocate over 180 families affected by the Katrina and Rita hurricanes.

CHRIST AND COMMON SENSE

March 17, 7:00 pm

You are cordially invited to "A Personal Seminar" for males and females, ages 12 and older; at Mt. Olive Church of Plano, 740 Avenue F, Suite 303 in Plano, with Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy. The theme is, "Operation Transformation" found in John 10:10. This is, "God's solution to balance . . . in every area of your life!" Rev. Marilyn Giles is our speaker for this spirit-filled and informative seminar.

For more information and fees, please call Marva Hickman @ 214-664-9888

Christ and Common Sense
Rev. Marilyn J. Giles, Founder
P. O. Box 150723
Dallas, TX 75315
214-664-9888

DENTON FULL GOSPEL HOLY TEMPLE

March 8 - 11, 7:30 pm Nightly

Please join us as we host our annual "Harvest Time" Crusade with guest preachers: Pastor John Horne, Austin, TX; Pastor Andre' Lee, Houston, TX; and Dr. Dorinda Clark-Cole, Detroit, Michigan. For more information, please call 940-484-0963

Denton Full Gospel Holy Temple
Dr. Floyd Daniels III, Pastor
529 Bolivar Street
Denton, TX 76201
940-484-0963

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, THE COLONY

February 18, 7:30 pm

Our Drama Ministry proudly presents the first showing of, "Why Don't Cha Look in the Mirror?" An upbeat gospel Comedy Stage Play where everybody's got nothing but drama! You'll laugh, sing, be entertained and you'll relate. FREE admission, but tickets recommended to assure that you have a seat.

February 19, 3:30 pm

Please join us for our last showing of the comedy stage play, "Why Don't Cha Look in the Mirror?" FREE admission, but tickets recommended to assure that you have a seat. For more information, please call the church office @ 972-625-8186.

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride,
Senior Pastor
4396 Main Street
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Church Happenings

FRIENDSHIP WEST BAPTIST CHURCH, OAK CLIFF

March 8-12, 2006

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For more information and fees, please call the church @ 214-371-2029

Friendship West Baptist Church
Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III
Senior Pastor
2020 W. Wheatland Road
Dallas, TX 75232
972-228-5200

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

This Saturday, February 18, 7:00 pm

You are invited to participate in South Collin County's 2006 Building Foundations/Building Lives Gala @ the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. We will have a live auction and a silent auction followed by dinner and dancing to the music of the Rodney Booth Band. Auction items include: Exciting trips to Hawaii, England and California; Air travel via a balloon or "Move About The Country" with Southwest Airlines; a 4-night stay at the acclaimed Kona Village Resort in Hawaii; a venture to London for a weekend at the world-famous Lanesborough Hotel; local restaurant experiences; sports memorabilia, celebrity items and more. For detail information and ticket prices, please call Scott Blair @ 214-405-3134.

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MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

March 17, 7:00 pm

Please join us for "A Personal Seminar" for males and females, ages 12 and older. The theme is, "Operation Transformation" found in John 10:10. This is, "God's solution to balance . . . in every area of your life!" The speaker will be the dynamic Rev. Marilyn Giles from Christ and Common Sense Butterfly Club.

For more information and fees please call Marva Hickman @ 214-664-9888

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
Rev. Sam Fenceroy,
Senior Pastor
740 Avenue F, Suite 303
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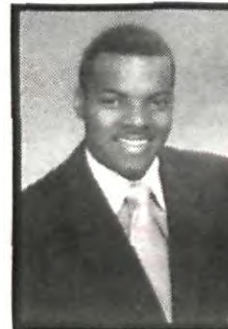
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Church Happenings Page 10



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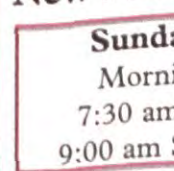
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The Votes Are In!

MON-The Gazette receives 1st Place for "Best Religious Section"
at the 19th Annual African American Texas Publisher's Association Conference. The contest was judged by the University of Texas at Tyler.

Hurricane Katrina Stokes Mardi Gras Satire

By: Michelle Roberts
Associated Press

Mardi Gras has long been an occasion for the city to laugh at tragedy and aim barbs at authorities, and given all the pain New Orleans has suffered in the past year the irreverence should reach new heights this season.

Armed with sharp tongues and images such as the blue tarps that still protect broken roofs across the city, the clubs that stage Mardi Gras parades are targeting Hurricane Katrina and the politicians they blame for the chaotic response to the catastrophe.

"It is hard living here now. We need to have our opportunity to release," said Keith Twitchell, one of the organizers of Saturday's Krewe du Vieux parade. "If you don't laugh, you're dead. There's a lot to cry about here."

Krewe du Vieux has used its parade to mock corporations and politicians every year for the last two decades.

"It's just we have more material this year," Twitchell said before the parade, themed "C'est Levee," a pun on the French phrase "C'est la vie," meaning "that's life."

Floats and props built for the Saturday evening parade in the French Quarter included hand-pulled carts elaborately decorated with blue tarps, fake broken levees, cardboard travel trailers and effigies of Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

One display asked France to buy Louisiana back, suggesting the state might get better treatment than it has from the American government. And in place of a parade map, the Krewe du Vieux had a "project-

ed path" adorned with a swirly hurricane symbol.

Still, in the midst of revelry and satire, even the city known as the Big Easy has a serious side.

The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club, a 90-year-old historically black group that holds one of the city's most beloved Mardi Gras parades, held a serv-



The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club members hold a traditional Jazz Funeral to remember those who perished in Hurricane Katrina and aftermath. Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006, on Jackson Ave. in New Orleans. (AP Photo/Mary Ann Chastain)

ice and lit 10 candles in honor of club members who have died since the storm.

They lit an eleventh candle to honor the hundreds of people killed by Katrina.

Mardi Gras parades typically run on weekends leading up to and on Mardi Gras, which falls on Feb. 28 this year, almost exactly six months after the Aug. 29 storm. The parades are put on by private clubs across the city; Krewe du Vieux is a smaller French Quarter parade that runs in advance of the major parades.

Masked riders in the parades have long used the opportunity to mock the ruling class and government officials, said Mardi Gras expert Arthur Hardy. The tradition goes back to 1873, when the Mistick Krewe of Comus themed its parade "The Missing Links to Darwin's Origin of the Species" and portrayed Union Gen.

Ulysses S. Grant as a tobacco grub.

Hardy said the satire serves as a coping mechanism.

"It's almost like you laugh to keep from crying. It's a chance to say 'This can't keep us down' ... We're going to laugh at it and throw something back at it," he said.

Even groups that are typically less tongue-in-cheek are taking swipes at the storm and politicians this year.

The Krewe of Carrollton, which holds its parade on Feb. 19, chose "Blue Roof Blues" — a reference to the tarps protecting damaged and leaky roofs.

The Krewe of Mid-City will use blue tarps along the bottom of its floats — in part out of necessity because of flooding at its warehouse.

The Mid-City parade, scheduled for Feb. 26, will have floats called "New Orleans Culture" — that's culture as in mold — and "I drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was gone," a bitter twist on the line from Don McLean's "American Pie."

It will also use a float from last year's parade that bears the image of Willy Wonka. The "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" character has become a favorite reference to the mayor since he angered residents by saying New Orleans would once more become a "chocolate city." New Orleans was more than 60 percent black before Hurricane Katrina displaced about three-quarters of its population.

"As fate would have it, we're able to recycle it," Gerard Braud, a former Mid-City king, said of the float.

Spike Lee: Miss. Should Get Rid Of Flag

Director Spike Lee, known for his stylish and controversial films, said Mississippi should get rid of the state flag during a speech at the University of Mississippi's Black History Month celebration.

Lee said Mississippians cling too tightly to what he considers symbols of oppression.

"You've gotta do something about that flag," he said. "I know people say it's representative of history. Well, so's the swastika."

Lee is working on a documentary entitled "When the Levees Broke," which deals with the African-American experience in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

He did not go into details of the film's focus. But he did say the

movie was more difficult to film than "Four Little Girls," in which he interviewed the families of the four children who were killed in a church attack in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963.

"When I saw the devastation on TV and in the news...it (didn't) prepare me for what I saw there," Lee said of New Orleans. "You hear these people's stories, and it's heartbreaking."

"Levees" will be premiere on HBO on Aug. 29, exactly one year after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

Lee said that rap culture has perpetuated a cult of violence, drug use, disrespect to women and ignorance among a staggering portion

of young blacks.

"This 'gangsta' obsession is madness," Lee said. "Thinking like that is genocide."



Church Happenings

Church Happenings Page 9

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Month of March 2006

Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm

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Church Office: (972) 792-0239
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240

Service Times

Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM



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Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.



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Tuesday
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday
6:30 p.m. Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Church School

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Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 am
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Sunday

Early Morning Worship

8:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

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Evening Bible Study

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